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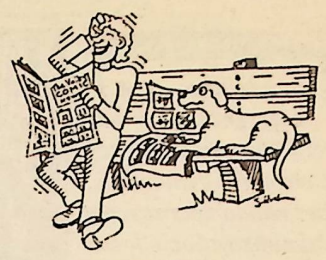
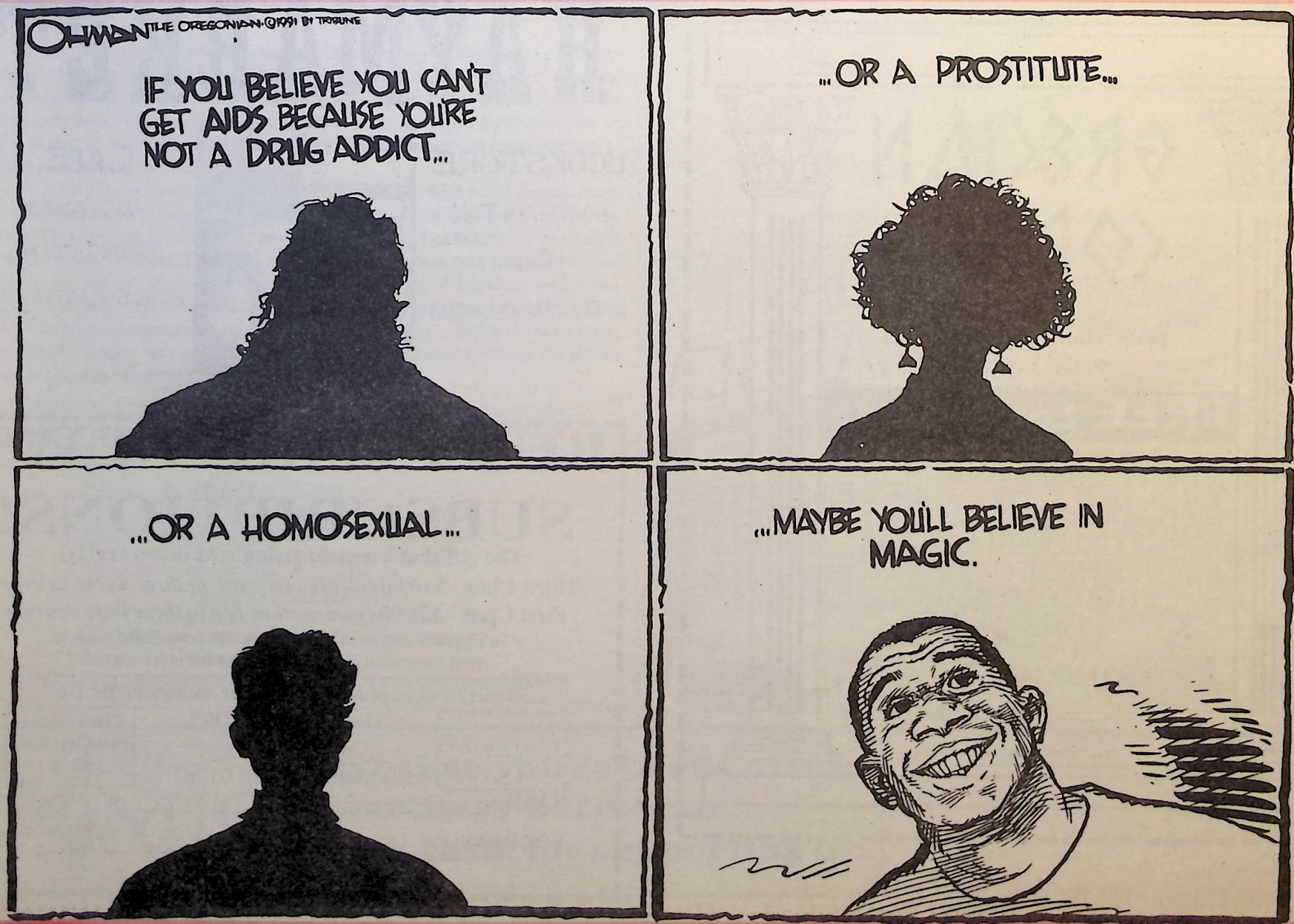


ISSUE #51
November 21, 1991

FREE

FEATURES: The Far Side, Doonesbury, Calvin & Hobbes, Views of the World, Take It or Leave it, The Brass and Fern, Earthweek, Izzy Gesell's *Humor Me*, President Bill, Joe Bob Briggs, Leold, Local Heroes

STORIES:
There's No Place Like Home
Burning Ambition
The Candidates' Debate
Running Of The Bull
Reagan Redux

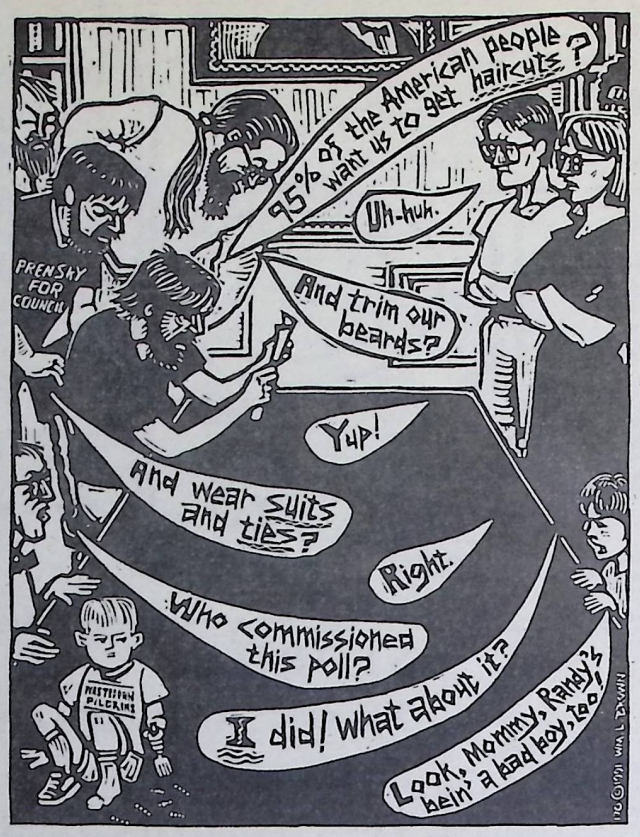


PRESIDENT BILL BY WILLIAM L. BROWN

PRESIDENT BILL

What a telling ★★★ difference there was between randomocracy and electoral democracy. Under randomocracy, my administration's focus had been on such goals as a healthy environment and a peaceful world, goals in the long-term best interests of the country. My administration had no voting blocs or political action committees to mollify. Our firm ideological base was our only guide. But, under electoral democracy, the focus of the presidency suddenly became Election Day. Now, our every decision was affected by public opinion polls.

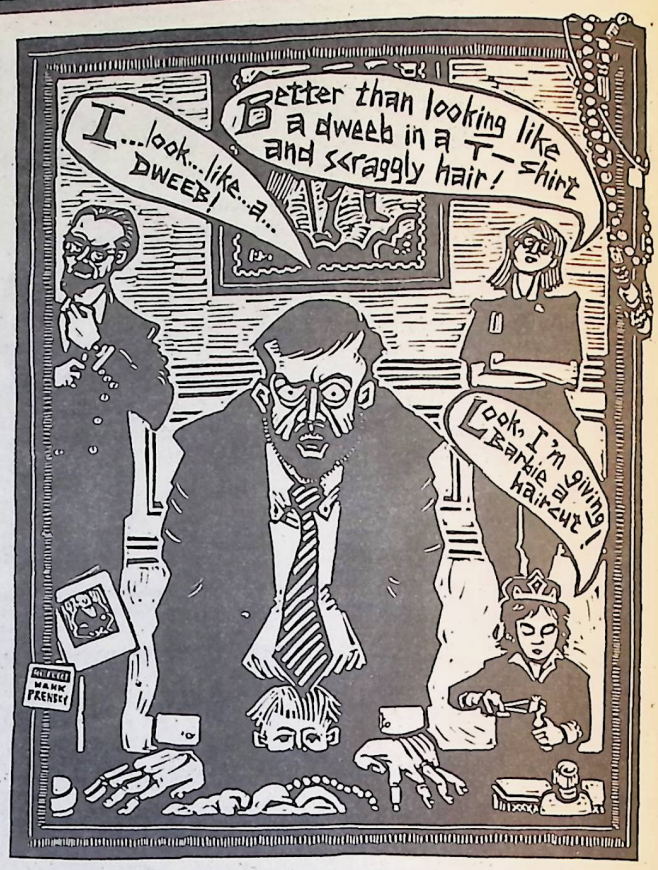
★ ABOLISH ELECTIONS VOTE for PRESIDENT BILL! ★



PRESIDENT BILL

Politicians must learn ★ to make concessions in order to accomplish things. For example, a politician might trim back the controversial parts of some proposed legislation to get it passed. Or, a politician might put a gloss on an ugly truth—calling a tax a "user fee," for instance. These tactics are sometimes necessary for the greater good. At least that's what Mary, my wife and chief of staff, said. Since I was running for the executive office now, she said, I should make small concessions—a bit of glossing over and trimming back—to be more palatable to the voters.

★ ABOLISH ELECTIONS VOTE for PRESIDENT BILL! ★



"President Bill" appears in *President Bill, a Graphic Epic*, a book published by Andrews and McMeel. This book is now available at Broadside Bookshop, Faces, Food For Thought Books, and the Beyond Words bookstore. Get caught up on the story. It's worth it.

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PAGE THREE

As I promised you last time, here's a Simple Idea That Can Change Our Lives. The American and Russian economies are both a wreck. Bush, Gorbachev, and Yeltsin think the solution is to get money into private citizens' hands. All three are also reducing incredibly bloated defense budgets (Hi, I'm Mike Gorbachev, and thanks to Ultra SlimFast...). But nobody yet has a clue how to transfer this "Peace Dividend" to the pockets of private citizens. Nobody except me.

What we do is have a sweepstakes. That's right — the Peace Dividend Sweepstakes. And how much would it be? Well, at least one US Senator has suggested we could cut our defense budget by 50%. That's excellent. Half of 291 billion is...oh, let's round it off: 150 billion dollars. Just think what (your family's name here) could do with 150 billion dollars!

First off, you'd probably quit your job. This would be a patriotic maneuver, because an unemployed person could take your place. Next, you'd give several million dollars apiece to a hundred of your closest friends and relatives. They'd all quit their jobs too, and a hundred more unemployed people would eagerly move into their positions.

Next thing you'd do is travel all across the country giving money away. You'd walk down the streets of America's cities, and when a homeless person asks you for a quarter, you fork over a million dollars. Now, a million bucks may not be much on Wall Street, but on 42nd Street near Times Square, that million will buy a lot of alcohol and cat food, and will go directly into the cash registers of local, tax-paying, mom-and-pop alcohol and pet-food stores.

Then you'd go into the small towns of America. If a waitress is personable when she refills your coffee, leave her five hundred thousand. Got a good haircut in the heartland? Two million is a fine way to say "Thanks." Do this for six months. Invite your friends to do it too. In fact, give a billion to each member of your bowling team, with the understanding that they'll each spend half a year participating in this giveaway across America.

Then you'd set up a foundation to spend your leftover money for you — a foundation to work for positive social change. You could offer every member of Congress a mere 100 million dollars apiece to vote for legislation that decriminalizes drugs. What Congressperson wouldn't make a special effort for 100 million? With drugs decriminalized, our cities would quit being battle zones, and people could do more in them than just hide. They could even start to work, what with all the jobs you've been helping to create.

And then with the War On Drugs finished, along with the War On Communism, George Bush would have to find something to rally the nation around, so maybe he'd try to get some meaningful health-care legislation passed; maybe some help to the education system. With tax revenues pouring in from all the new businesses you've helped to start up, there should be enough federal bucks, if they just figure out how to spend it in an intelligent way. You could help.

I don't know how all this would fly in Russia. It might be they're not ready for a USA-sized sweepstakes yet. So let's just take half the billions we've saved now that the War On Drugs is over — maybe three billion — and go to Moscow to sponsor a War On Drugs Dividend Sweepstakes. Three billion would go a long way toward getting money into private citizens' hands there; I mean, some of those Russian families are huge. And they've got homeless people, too, along with waitresses and barbers. But the way things are changing in Russia, we've got to move fast — like in the next couple of months — while there are still some Russians we recognize, whose names we remember how to pronounce.

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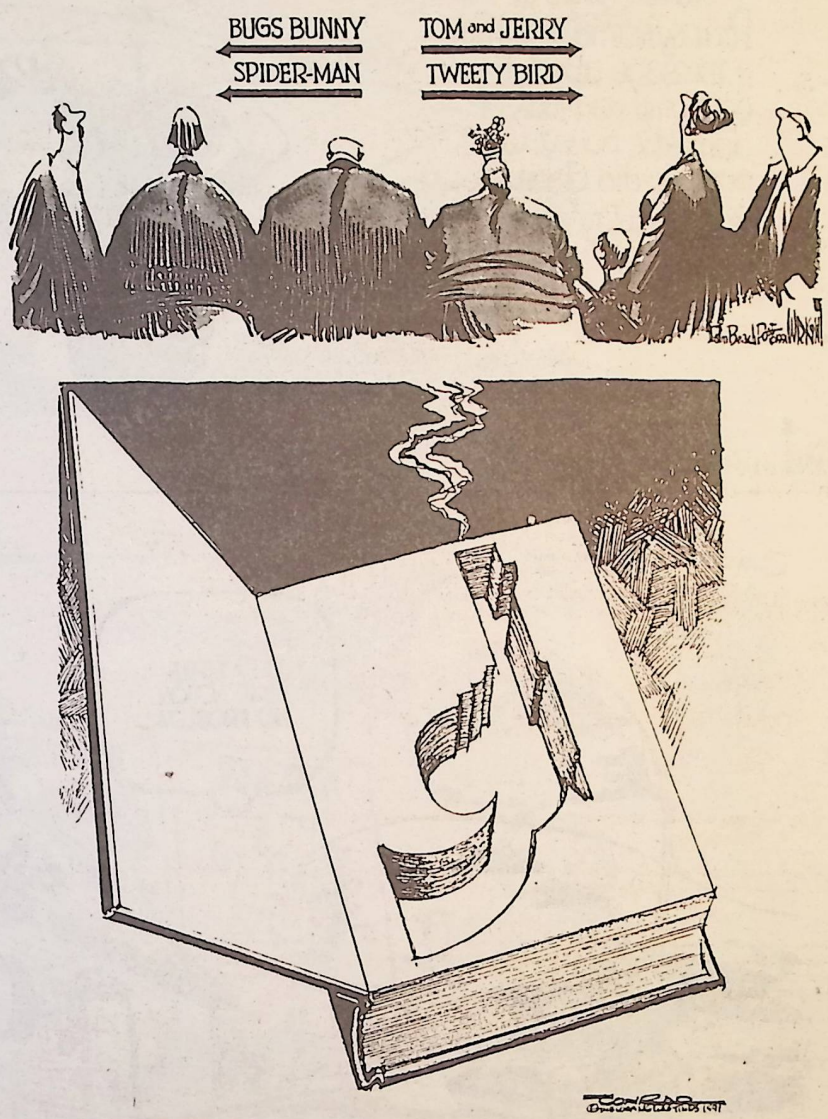
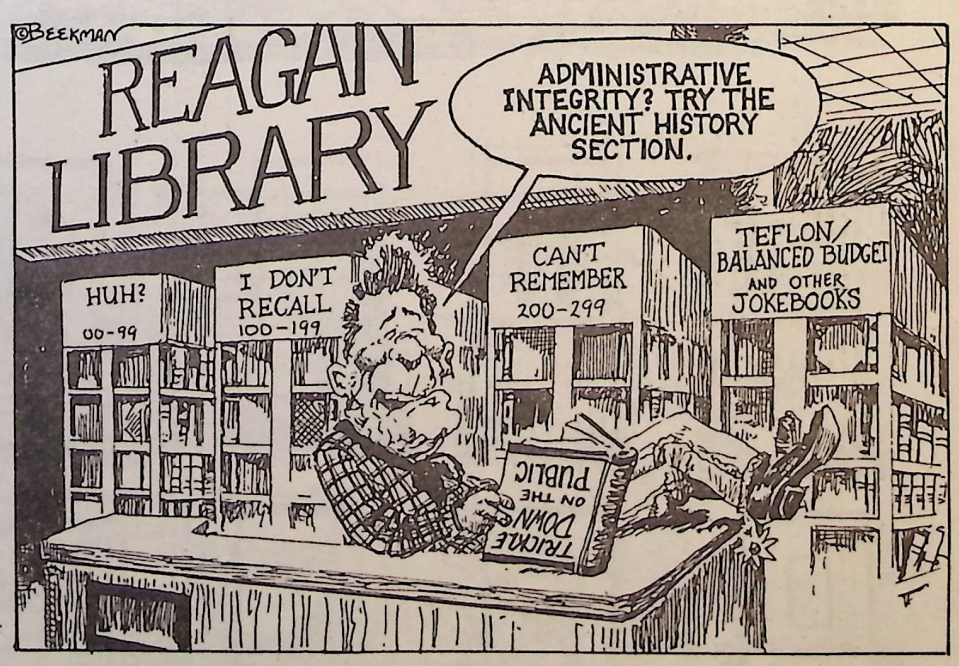
REAGAN REDUX





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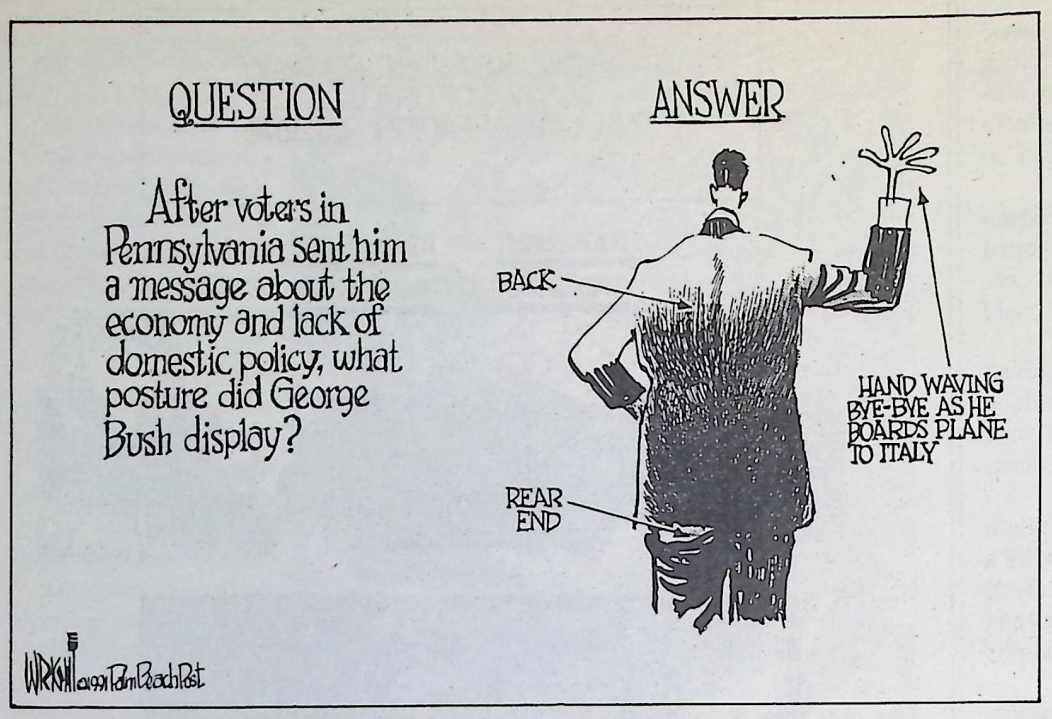
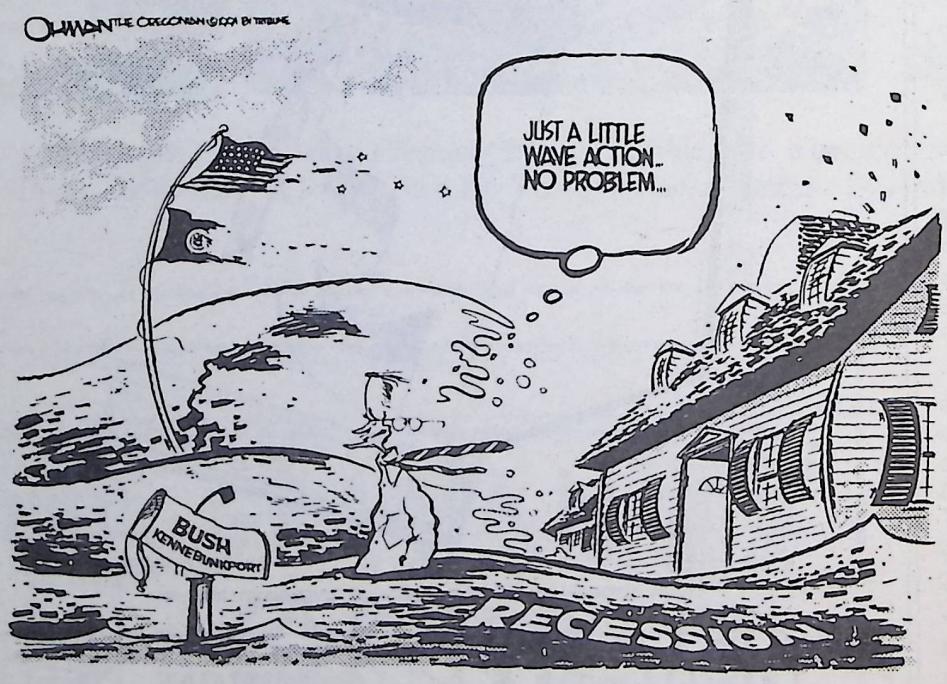
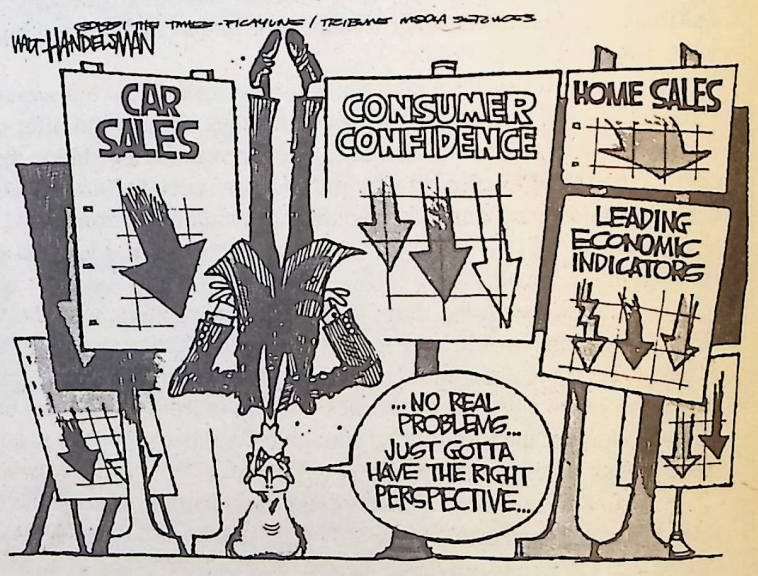
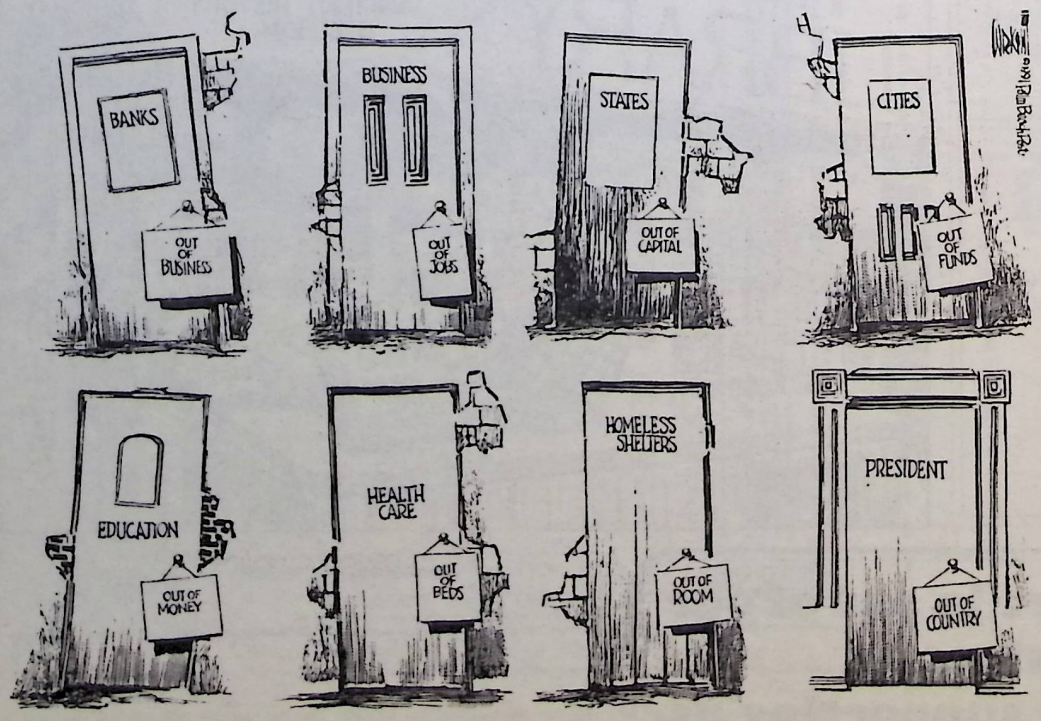
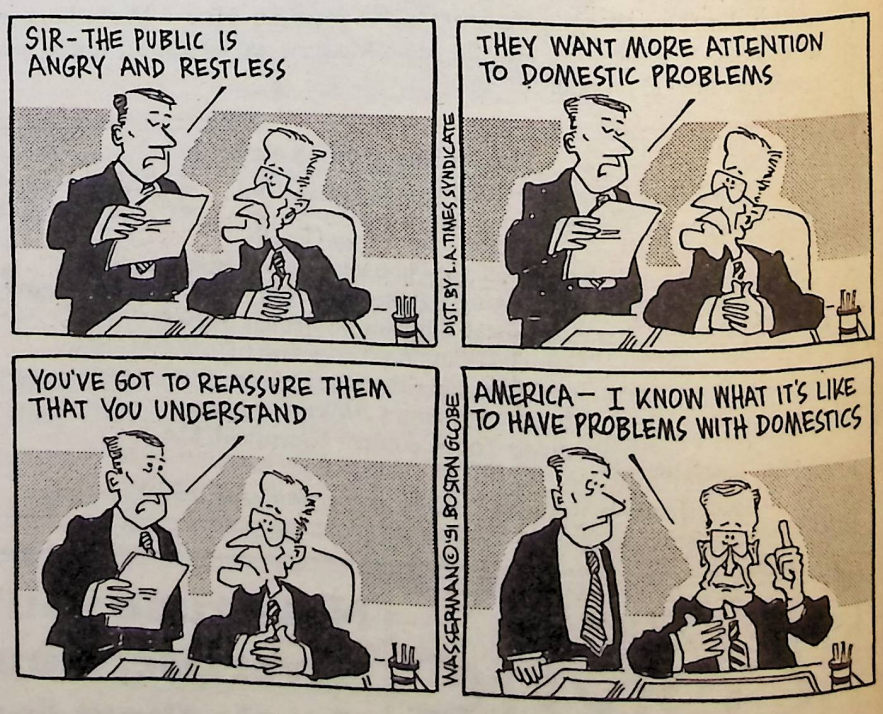




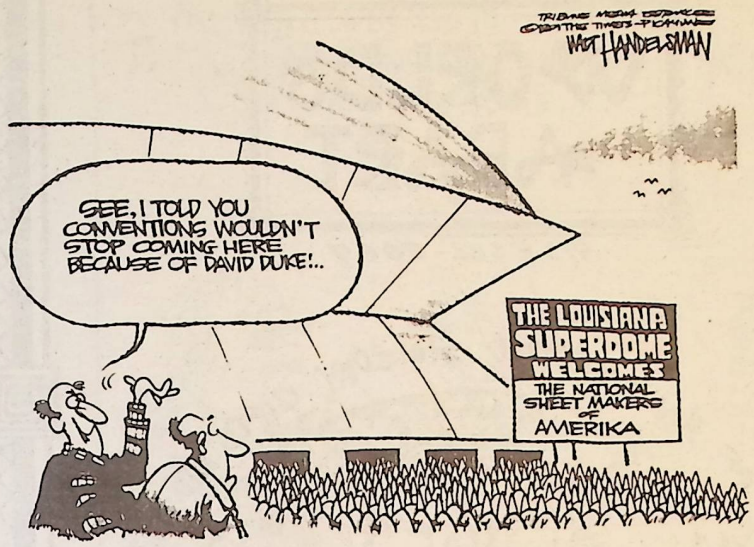


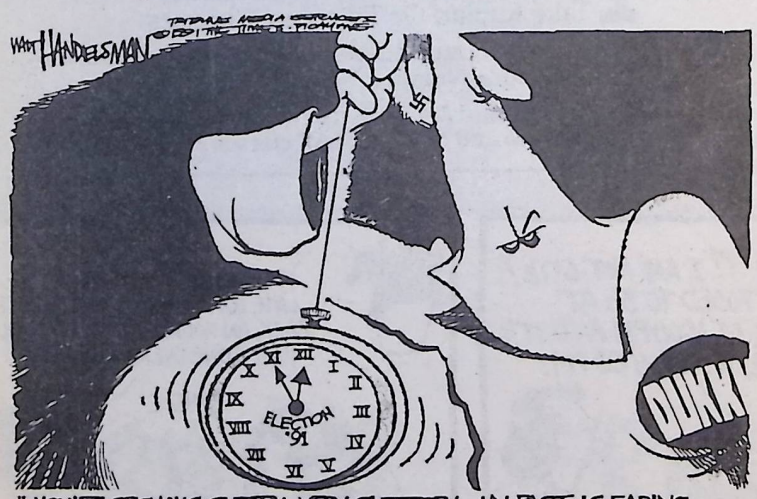




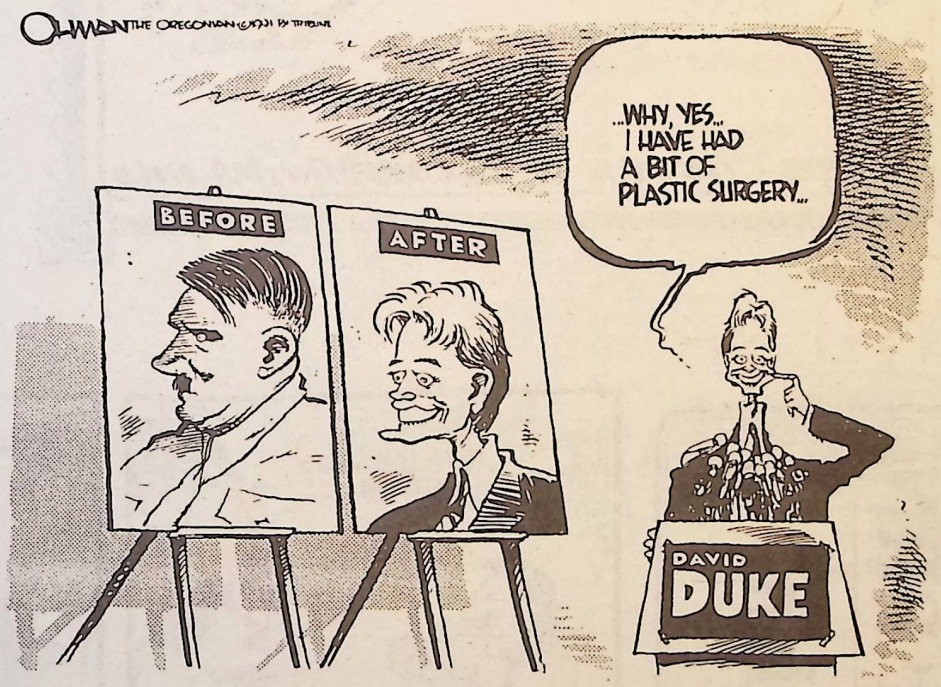
BURNING AMBITION

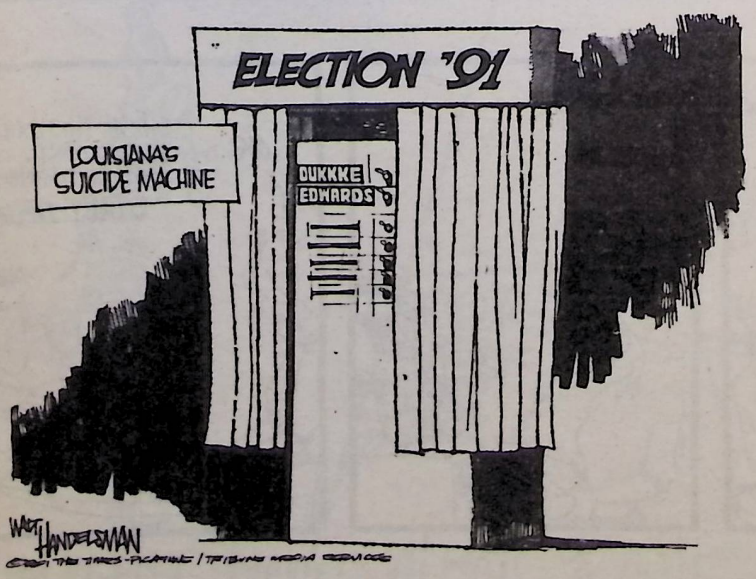
SON OF REAGAN-BUSH





"...YOU'RE GROWING SLEEPY...VERY SLEEEEPY... MY PAST IS FADING... FAAAADING... PAY NOOO ATTENTION... NOOOO ATTENTION AT ALL... IT'S ALL LIBERAL LIES... SLEEEEPY... AND THE NEWS MEDIA...SLEEPY... EVERYTHING WILL BE FINE... SLEEEEEPY... VOTE... FOR... DUKE.....





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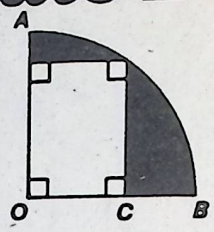

13. In the figure above, AB is an arc of a circle with center O. If arc AB = 5π and CB = 4, what is the sum of the areas of the shaded regions?

(A) $25\pi - 60$ (C) $25\pi - 36$ (E) $100\pi - 36$
(B) $25\pi - 48$ (D) $100\pi - 48$

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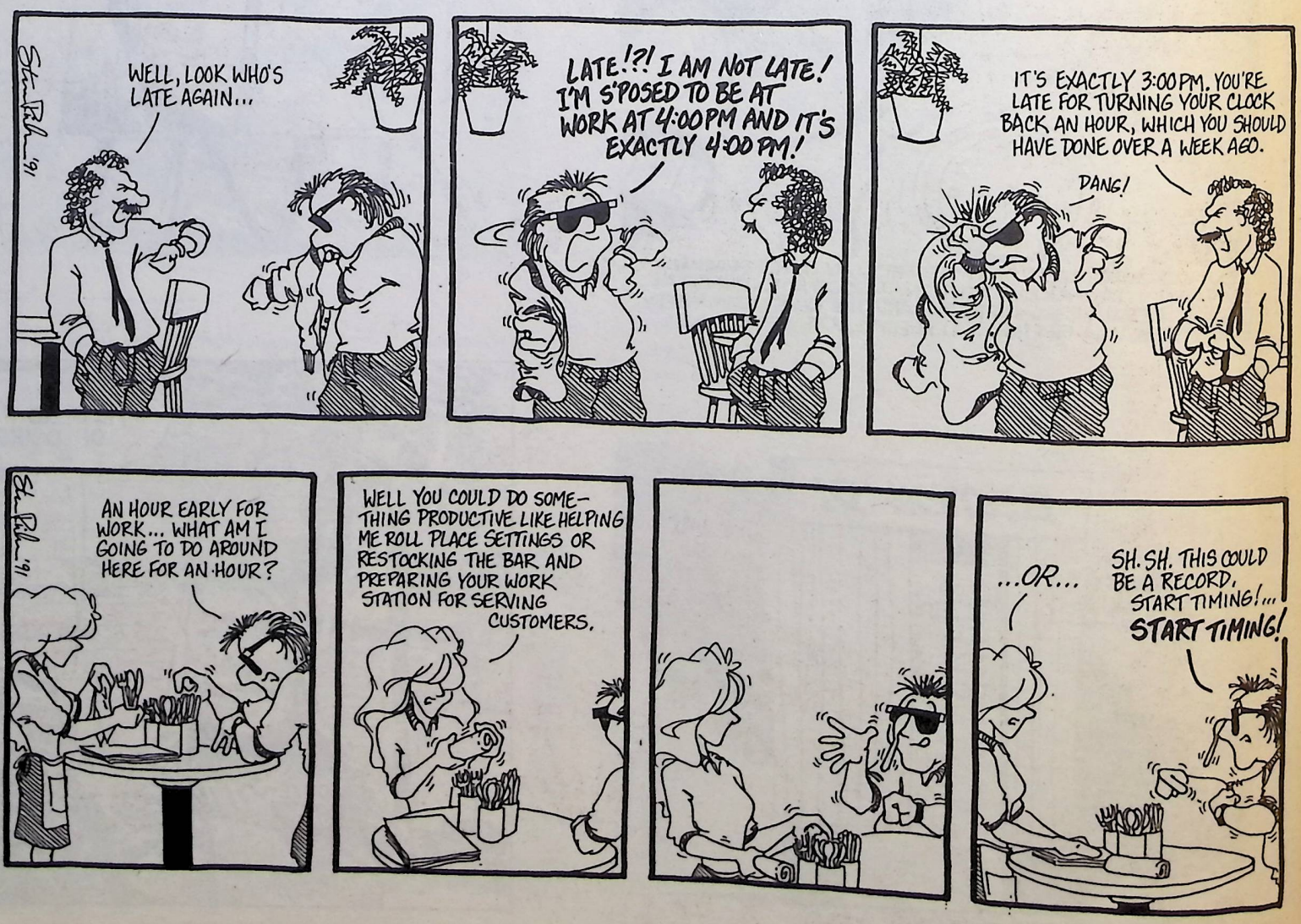
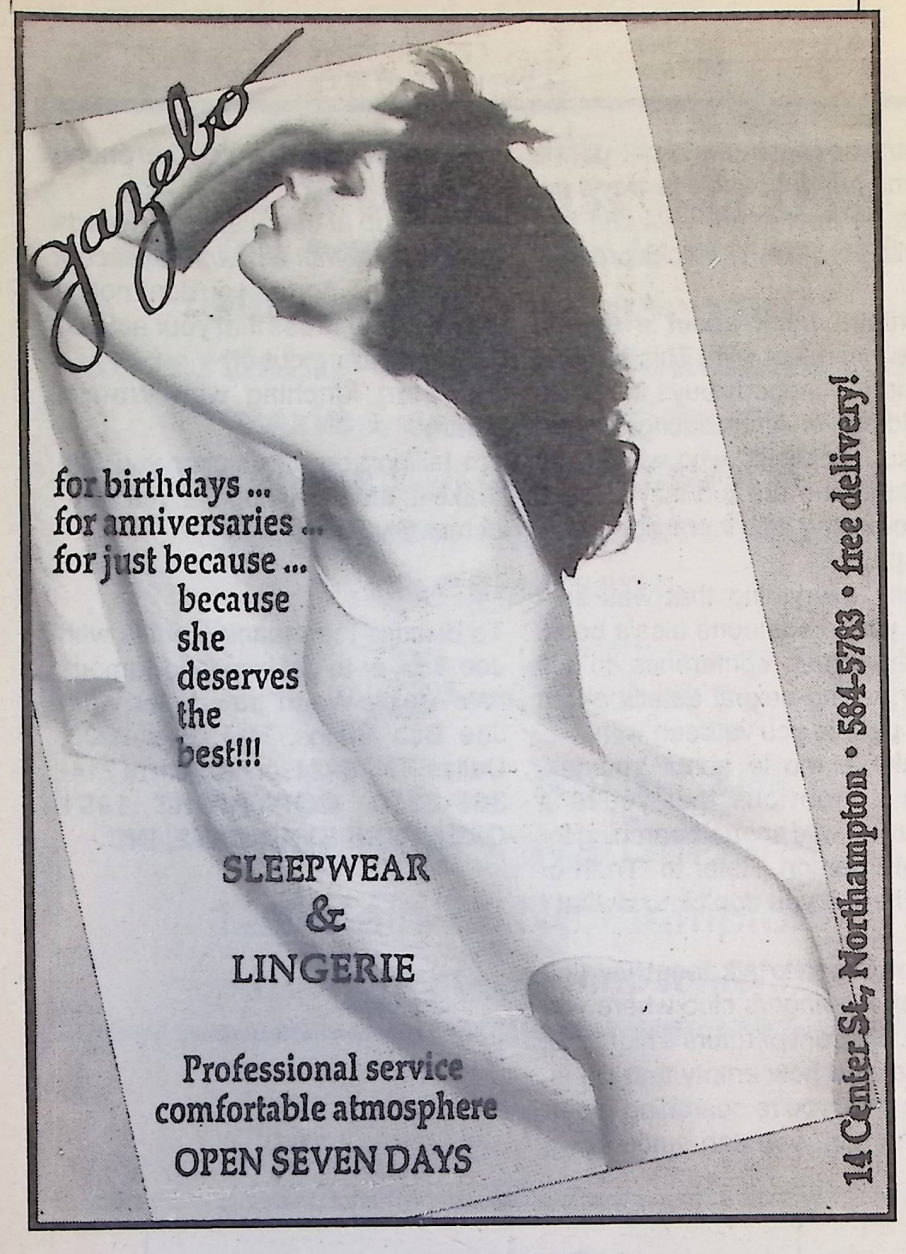
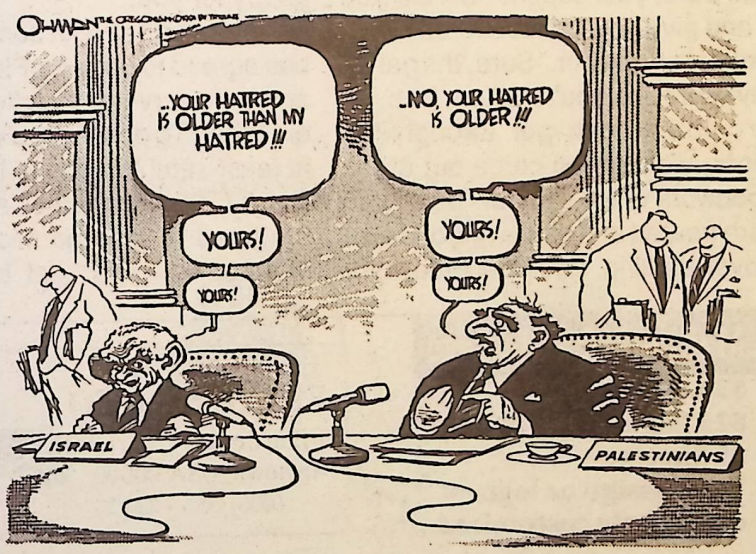
THE BRASS & FERN

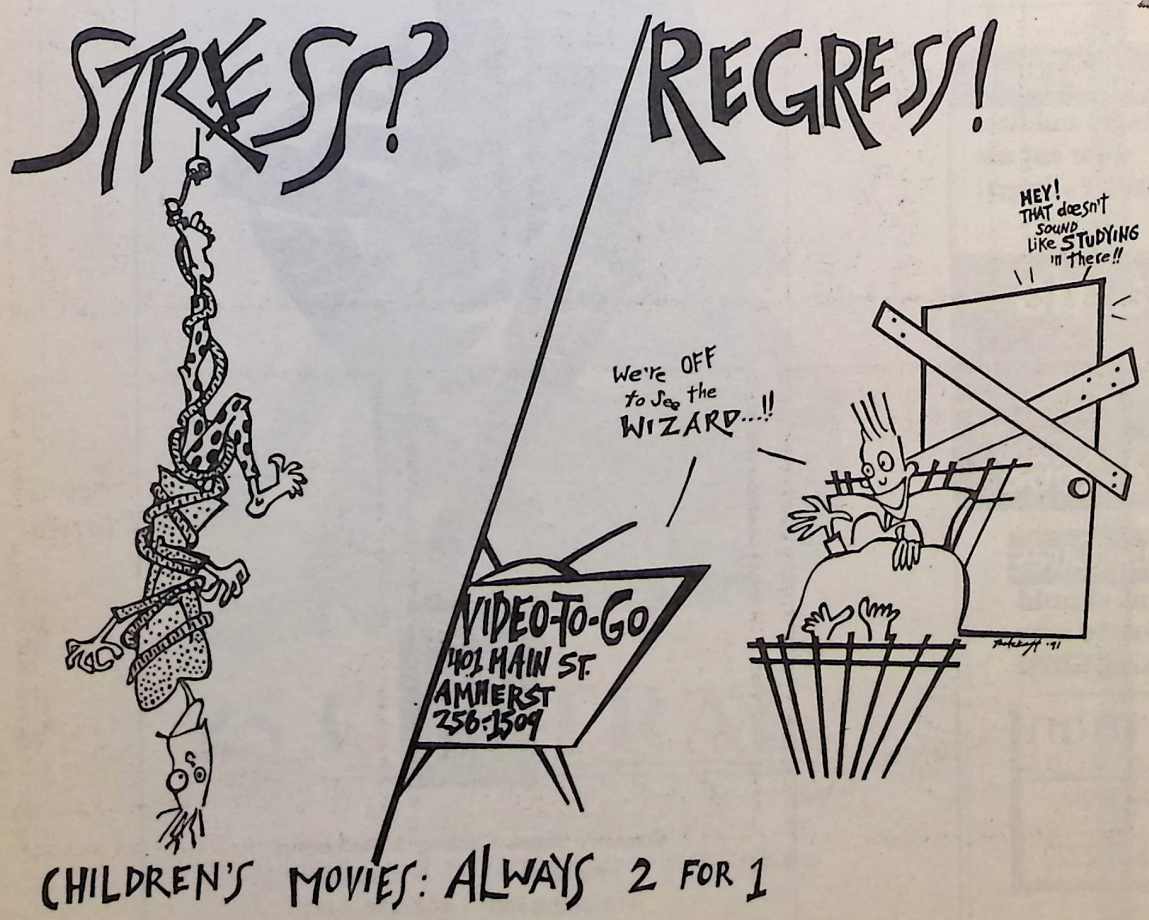
By Steve Riehm





RUNNING OF THE BULL





PRAYERS FOR PEACE

JOE BOB BRIGGS

In a country always in search of new status symbols, mere *material possessions* are no longer enough. Mercedes? Sorry, you're ten years too late. Ferrari? Okay, five years. Cellular phone? The *maid* has a cellular phone. Designer shirts? Entire *gangs* in the South Bronx wear shirts with Ralph Lauren on the front.

No, we've reached the end of this particular Go-Kart ride. If you wanna be hip now, it's got to be something you can't just buy. It's gotta be something you *do.*

Here, in ascending order of importance, are the status symbols of the nineties:

1. Sexually harass someone in your office. Sure, you'll take a little heat at first. Sure, your superior will call you in and give you the lecture on "inappropriate behavior." Sure, the gal (or guy) will think you're scum. But, *after* you've been put through the ringer, women will come out of the woodwork to tell you how badly you were treated and how everyone else is overreacting. You'll become notorious, then sympathetic, then popular, and eventually — after the story has made it through several rounds of office gossip - *legendary.*

2. Show up at a party with somebody who once made a porno movie. In 1972, this would get you fired. In 1992, your boss will come over the next day and say, "Soooo, is she *really* like that? I mean, does she make those noises?" Because make no mistake about it — *everybody* in this world has a VCR. If they didn't see her *before* you showed up with her, they've seen her now.

3. Marry somebody 30 years younger than you. This is something you can do that ticks off *almost everybody* except the person you're marrying, and it has one added advantage. They all have to *pretend* that they're happy for you.

4. Have an affair with someone who has agreed to pose for Playboy later and tell everyone exactly what you did to her. To do this, you've got to be at least semi-famous to begin with, like a Congressman or an actor or the head of a corporation. But remember — *you* get to pick the woman, because she's not gonna become famous, and Playboy's not gonna be interested, until she has sex with *you.* Get it? Mucho prestige here.

5. Write a book about everyone you've ever slept with. This has one drawback. If nobody buys the book, it could be *very* humiliating. So hire a "sexual publicist" who will call up reporters who are too lazy to read the book and tell them about the "juicy parts."

6. Deny everything that was said about you in someone else's book. Use the press conference to tell embarrassing sexual details about *other* people you've been with.

7. Make a movie about yourself, where it's obvious that you're a sexcraving wild animal searching for the right person. Refer to "Truth or Dare" here if you don't know what I mean.

8. Go on Oprah to talk about how you were in a swingers club where you had 12 different partners a night, but you realized how empty that life is, and so now you're searching for an "ordinary girl" you can settle down with. Go home and watch that phone light up.

9. Show up at the Academy Awards ceremonies with any woman *except* Kathy Bates. Act like you don't notice the designer dress that your actress escort is falling out of.

10. Start lunching with Warren Beatty.

I'm telling you, the sicker you can make it, the more popular you'll become. Give it a shot.

To discuss the meaning of life with Joe Bob, or to get his world-famous "We Are the Weird" newsletter, write Joe Bob Briggs, P.O. Box 2002, Dallas, TX 75221, or Fax him at 214-368-2310. COPYRIGHT 1991 CREATORS SYNDICATE, INC.

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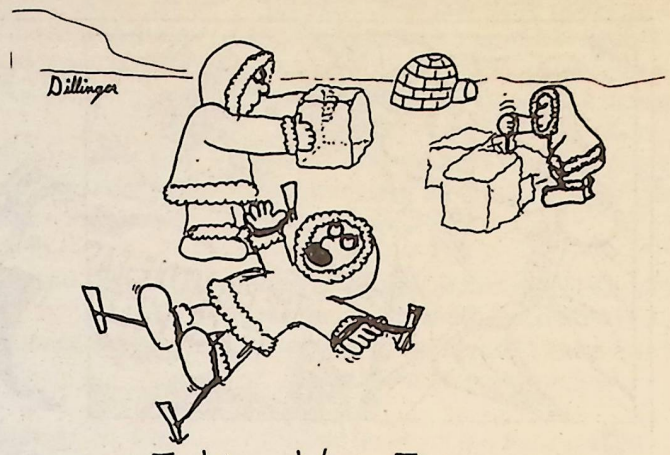
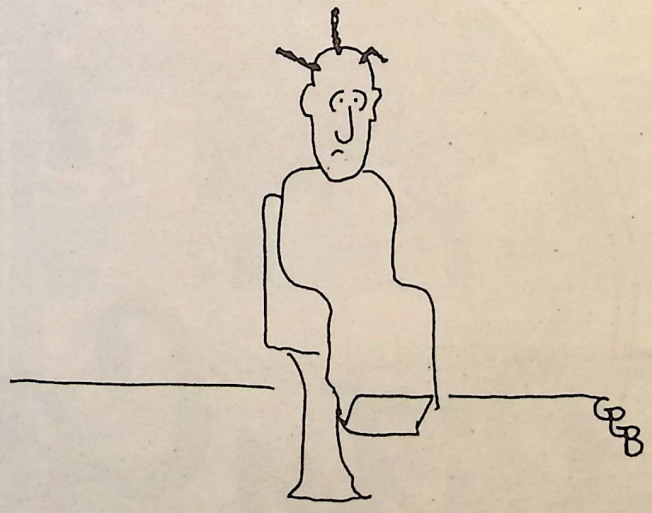


Eskimo Water Torture



Unsatisfactory Haircut

Top to Bottom:Dillinger Lee,
Christopher Wenz,
Putnam Goodwin-Boyd,

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VIEWS OF THE WORLD

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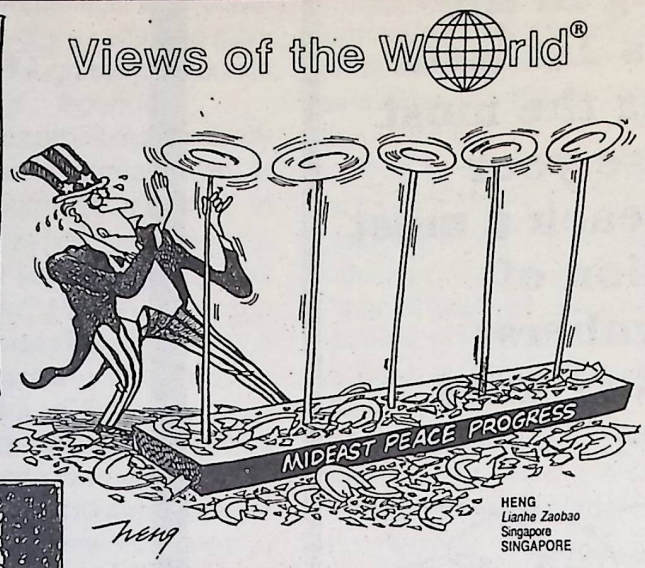

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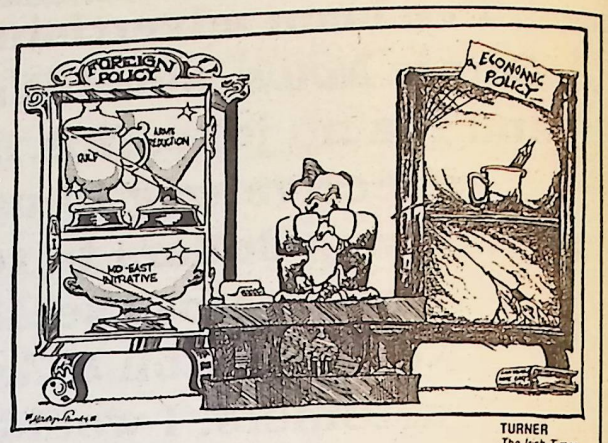

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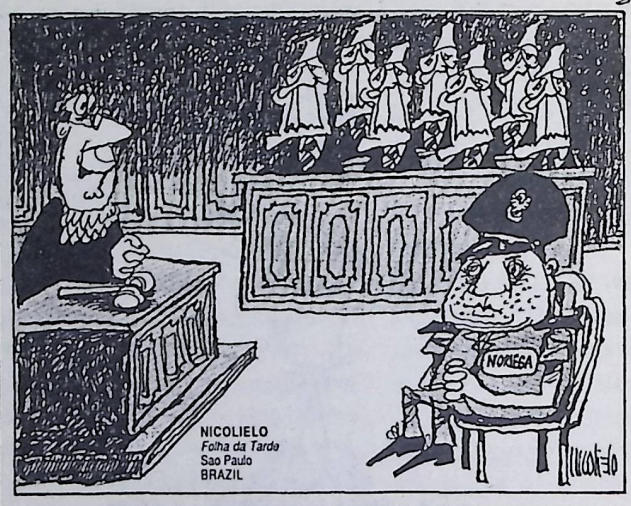

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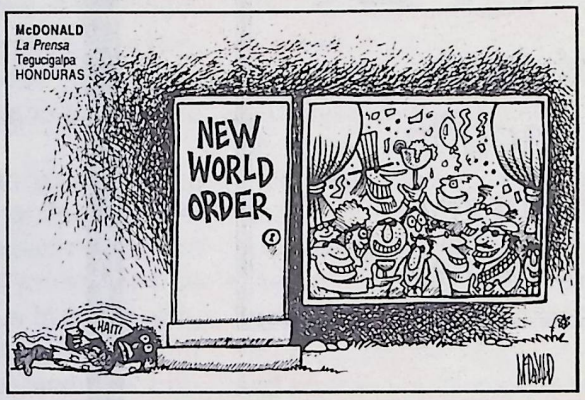

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TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT by L.M. Boyd

Q. How do you account for so many varieties of butterflies? A. Credit the wind. It blows butterflies off course, sometimes. They lose their mother colonies, join other groups, and nothing in the butterfly bylaws says they can't mate with strangers.

•

According to the historical footnotes, some children in early America tamed flying squirrels and threw them around like self-correcting frisbees.

•

An estimated 22 percent of newly married husbands soon begin to wish "in some ways" that they were still single. That statistic was recorded by matrimonial researchers, and our Love and War man dutifully filed it, thinking it's no doubt equally applicable to brides, and the percentage may be too low.

•

A cat blinks twice a minute. About. If typical.

•

The leg of a racehorse is thinner below the knee than a big man's wrist. But after each 25-foot stride, that horse's leg withstands an impact of more than half a ton. No man's wrist could take that, what?

•

Milk cows don't let their owners take vacations. If the dairy farmer can't afford fulltime hired help, said milk magnate may not get a day off in 20 years. What's needed is an agency to send out bondable seasoned farm hands on temporary assignment. Am told of one experienced husband-wife team who do that. They go anywhere in the world, it's said, to keep the farm humming while the farmer takes a break. Their kind is rare.

•

Indianapolis police said they needed more money. Nobody paid attention. They left their locked patrol cars parked all around the City-County Building with lights flashing and sirens wailing. Everybody paid attention. The money? No, not right away. Eventually, though.

•

How one thing leads to another: Importers of footwear of several decades ago brought in great batches of sandals. They caught on most readily. This forced sellers to junk thousands of store-window models. And buy new mannequins with separated toes.

•

A grownup seagull eats just about anything, true, but those who know their gulls say that bird feeds its young nothing but fresh fish.

•

Under continuing discussion is why men boarding a bus tend to take seats behind the driver while women are inclined to choose the opposite side.

•

Average blood pressure of a giraffe is 260/160.

•

If your ears are not the same length as your nose, something's wrong. They should be. Wait, not wrong. But not typical, either.

•

When intellectuals dare list "history's most intelligent people," they usually include England's John Stuart Mill. It was Mill who said: Mankind's most persistent rising power is mediocrity.

•

Medieval cooks candied carnations.

•

A camel's body temperature has to get up to 105 degrees F. before it sweats.

•

Spanish moss has more going for it than just pretty. It's useful in detecting air levels of lead, mercury, chromium, cadmium and manganese. It draws nourishment only from the air, *so* gathers only airborne contaminations. Near freeways, Spanish moss is really loaded, I'm told.

•

Federal legislation to control billboards was passed in 1965. Researchers say there are now 320,000 more billboards than there were then.

•

Nose length of the female flight attendant averages 2.18 inches. The Federal Aviation Administration has determined that. But I don't know why.

•

Q. Why was the tuba banned in China? A. That goes back to when Mao Tse Tung's widow, Chiang Ching, held power. She hated the instrument. Officials hoping to please her purged the whole country of tubas.

•

A user of an anti-dandruff concoction feels assured the product works if it makes the scalp tingle. So some manufacturers have added "capsaicin," the stuff that needles your mouth when you eat a hot pepper.

•

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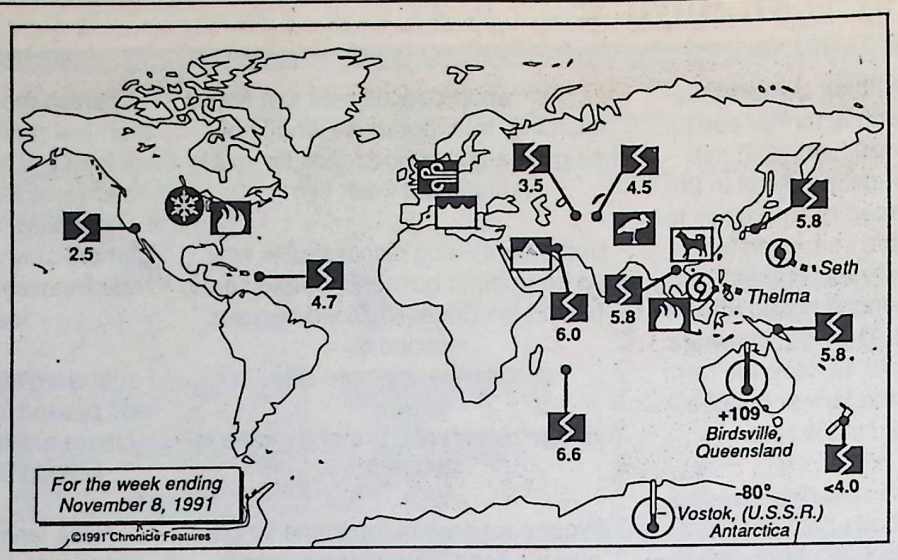
EARTHWEEK: A DIARY OF THE PLANET

By Steve Newman



Tropical Storms

Flash floods triggered by tropical storm Thelma unleashed landslides in the central Philippines that killed nearly 3,000 people and left 2,000 others missing and feared dead. Officials said that the bodies of the missing may never be found because they were either swept out to sea, where sharks were said to be feasting on them, or were buried under tons of debris. Most of the deaths occurred in the port city of Ormoc on the central island of Leyte, where almost six inches of rain fell in one day over steep mountains that had been heavily logged, which made them vulnerable to landslides. The storm was predicted to lose force as it neared Vietnam late in the week.

Typhoon Seth brought high winds and heavy surf to the northern Mariana Islands.

Early Winter

An unprecedented early November arctic outbreak plunged the Canadian Prairies and the U.S. Great Plains into a record-setting freeze. Snow fell briefly as far south as the Texas-Mexico border, while the Minneapolis-St. Paul area was brought to a standstill by its greatest single-event snowfall ever. Almost two feet of snow fell across parts of Minnesota from the blizzards, which also created wind chills of 40 degrees below zero.

Flood

Twenty-five years to the day after record high tides flooded central Venice, the waters rose again to submerge Saint Mark's Square and the lower areas of the historic city. Venetians reacted angrily to the latest inundation, accusing the Italian government of reneging on promises made in 1966 to find ways to avoid further flooding, notably by building mobile dikes across the mouth of the lagoon.

Wildfires

Blazes across the Indonesian island of Sumatra and parts of Borneo have killed 20 people and destroyed 125,000 acres of tropical rain forest and crops. Forestry Minister Hasjrul Harahap said that the government was considering aerial bombing of areas of the forest in conjunction with traditional fire-fighting methods to stop the month-long fires.

A sharp cold wave helped firefighters extinguish forest fires that raged over many parts of the Appalachian Mountains, but blazes continued to blacken areas of Kentucky and West Virginia.

Gulf Fog

Heavy fog enveloped the Gulf emirate of Abu Dhabi for nine consecutive days, disrupting air traffic and causing 50 road accidents. Police officials said that visibility was reduced to less than 50 yards in some locations.

Channel Storm

A violent storm swept across the English Channel into parts of Belgium and the Netherlands, hurling high winds and torrential rains. Three people were killed in the Belgian town of Lint when the storm caused the roof of a community center to collapse onto a group of mostly elderly people who were playing cards.

Earthquakes

A sharp temblor damaged several homes and injured at least 20 people in the southern Iranian town of Behbehan. A swarm of tremors between New Zealand's two main islands raised concerns of a possible stronger quake. Earth movements were also felt in southern Kirgiziya, Uzbekskaya, Papua New Guinea, northern Thailand, the southern Indian Ocean, the Virgin Islands, Southern California, and the ancient Japanese capitals of Kyoto and Nara.

Animal Conservation

China's official Xinhua News Agency touted the country's efforts to save the protected black-necked crane in Tibet, saying a herdsman was fined two yaks last month for picking up two of the birds' eggs. The dispatch also warned that anyone convicted of killing a crane would be imprisoned. The agency failed to report a tale of canine slaughter in the southern Chinese city of Shenzhen, where a posse of 42 men searched out and killed 49 pet dogs in a single day. The *Shenzhen Daily* said that dog owners had remained indifferent to government orders against keeping the animals in cities. Communist authorities branded dog ownership a "bourgeois affection" shortly after they came to power in 1949.

Additional Sources: *Japan Meteorological Organization, U.S. Military Joint Typhoon Warning Center at Guam, U.S. Climate Analysis Center, U.S. Earthquake Information Center, and the World Meteorological Organization.*

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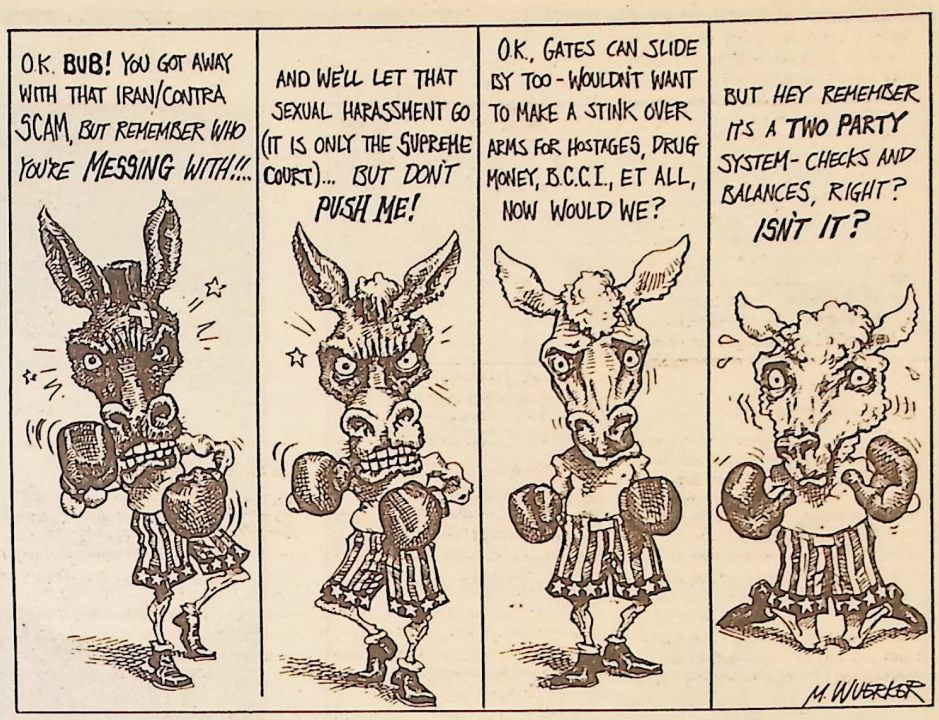
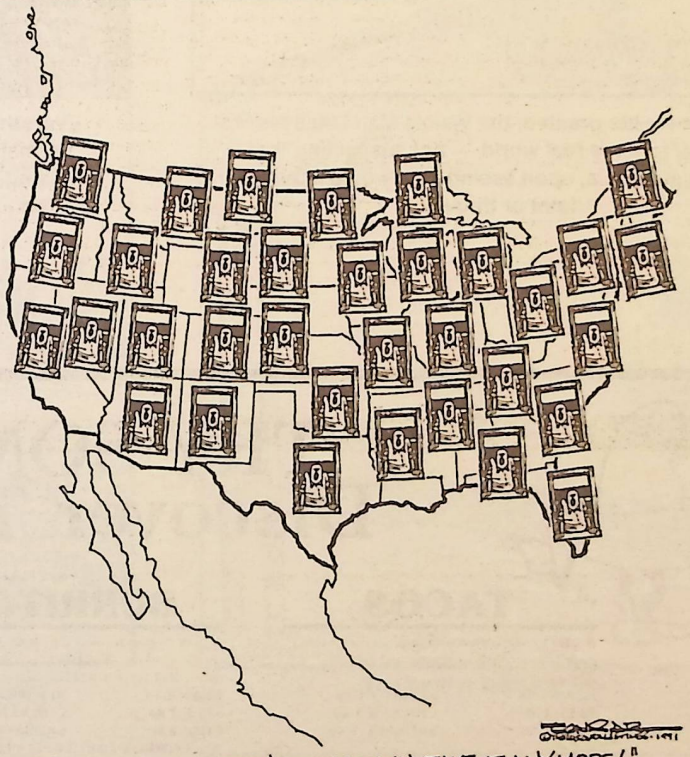
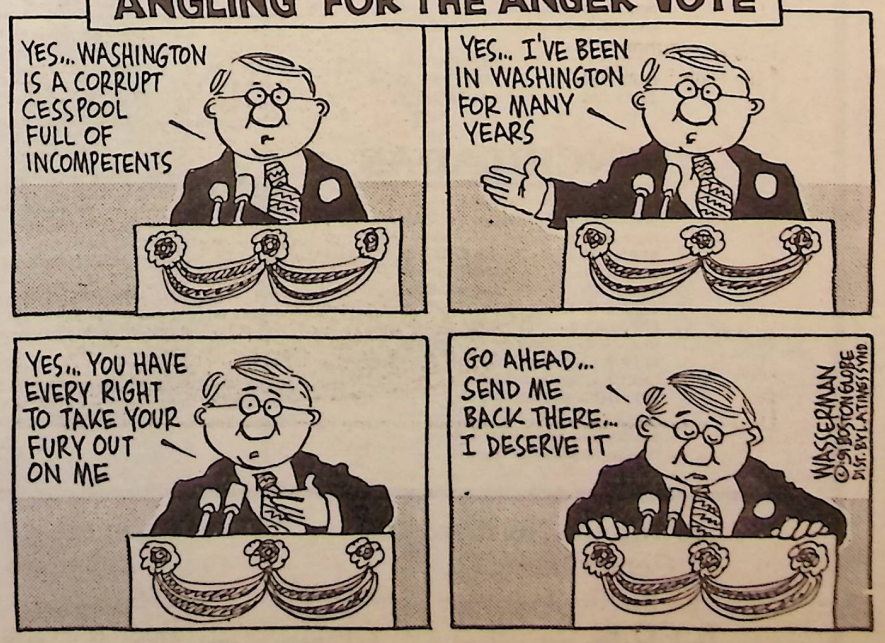
THE CANDIDATES' DEBATE



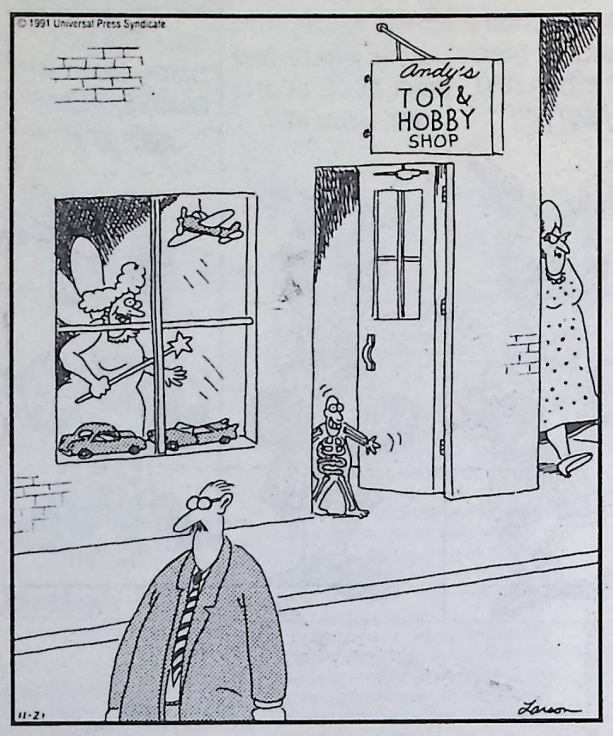


"I'M MAD AS HELL AND I'M NOT GONNA' TAKE IT ANYMORE!"

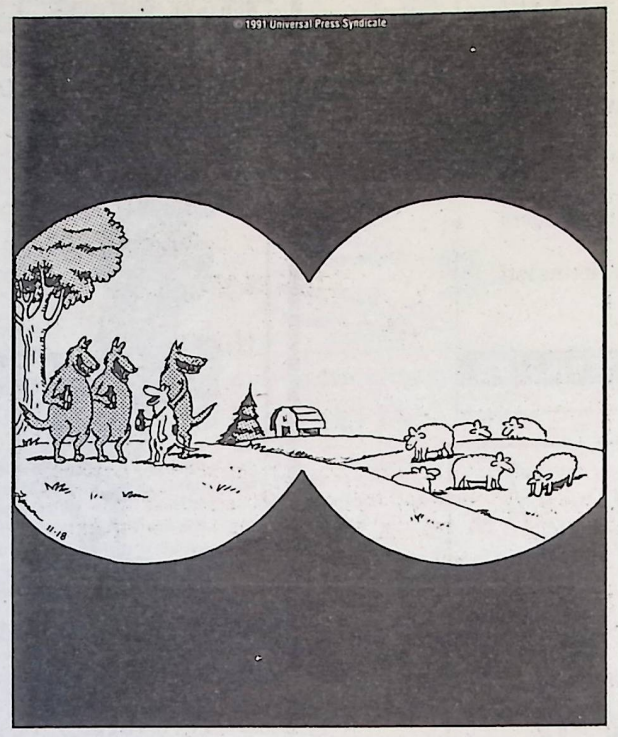
ANGLING FOR THE ANGER VOTE



THE FAR SIDE By GARY LARSON

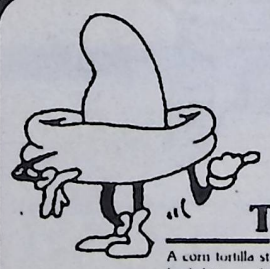


His wish for life granted, the Visible Man takes his first steps into the real world — not suspecting that most people, upon seeing him, would either faint or throw up.



Everything was starting to come into focus for Farmer MacDougal — his missing sheep, his missing six-pack, and his collie, Shep, who was getting just a little too sociable for his own good.

Unbeknownst to most ornithologists, the dodo was actually a very advanced species, living alone quite peacefully until, in the 17th century, it was annihilated by men, rats and dogs. As usual.



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BEEF 1.40	CHICKEN 1.40
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We take a flour tortilla, roll it around your choice of filling and cheddar cheese. It's then deep fried till golden brown, topped with enchilada sauce and lots of melted cheddar cheese

BEAN 3.55	REFRITO 3.55
BEEF 3.85	CHICKEN 3.85
CHILI 3.85	SAUSAGE 3.85

ENCHILADAS
Two steamed soft corn tortillas wrapped around your choice of filling covered with enchilada sauce and topped with melted cheddar cheese

BEAN 3.25	REFRITO 3.25
BEEF 3.75	CHICKEN 3.75
CHILI 3.75	SAUSAGE 3.75

CHEDDAR 3.75
CHEDDAR & ONION 3.75
BEAN & CHEDDAR 3.75
BEEF & CHEDDAR 3.75
CHILI & CHEDDAR 3.75
REFRITO & CHEDDAR 3.75
CHICKEN & CHEDDAR 3.75
SAUSAGE & CHEDDAR 3.75
(½ order available at ½ price)

BURRITOS
A flour tortilla steamed soft, stuffed with your choice of filling, cheddar cheese and lettuce then rolled up. Eat it like a sandwich

BEAN 2.10	REFRITO 2.10
BEEF 2.80	CHICKEN 2.80
CHILI 2.80	SAUSAGE 2.80

ALL COMBOS *LIMIT TWO FILLINGS* 2.80

BURRITO SUPREMO
It's the same as a regular burrito except we top it with enchilada sauce and cheddar cheese

BEAN 3.25	REFRITO 3.25
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CHILI 3.95	SAUSAGE 3.95

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QUESADILLAS
MILD—A grilled flour tortilla topped with sweet peppers, onions, cheddar and monterey jack cheeses. Served with our special cheese sauce on the side 3.35

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MILD OR HOT...

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WITH BEEF 3.75	WITH CHICKEN 3.75
WITH CHILI 3.75	WITH SAUSAGE 3.75

NACHOS
Basic—Lots of cheddar cheese melted on top of crispy corn tortilla chips 2.95

Nacho Platter—We take Basic Nachos and top them with all the extras. Beef, chicken, beans, refritos, sausage, chopped onions and tomatoes. Served with sour cream on the side. Great for a group to share 4.45

TOSTADAS
A crispy flat corn tortilla topped with your choice of filling and melted cheddar cheese. Then piled high with shredded lettuce, chopped onions and tomatoes, sliced black olives, more cheddar cheese and sour cream

BEAN 2.85	REFRITO 2.85
BEEF 3.35	CHICKEN 3.35
CHILI 3.35	SAUSAGE 3.35

ALL COMBOS *LIMIT TWO FILLINGS* 3.35

TAQUITOS
Two flour tortillas filled with your choice of filling and monterey jack cheese, deep fried, then covered with ranchero sauce and melted cheddar cheese

BEAN 4.45	REFRITO 4.45
BEEF 4.85	CHICKEN 4.85
CHILI 4.85	SAUSAGE 4.85

(½ order available at ½ price)

MEXICAN PIZZA
A large crispy flour tortilla covered with pizza sauce, your choice of main topping and lots of mozzarella cheese. Diced tomatoes, onions, peppers and olives are available at no charge. We'll make it the way you want it

PLAIN 3.25

WITH BEAN 3.50	WITH REFRITOS 3.50
WITH BEEF 3.95	WITH CHICKEN 3.95
WITH CHILI 3.95	WITH SAUSAGE 3.95

PURRINGTON'S PIZZA
A friend of ours always gets his pizza this way and says we should put in on the menu, so here goes. It's made with mild hot sauce in stead of pizza sauce and loaded with beef, diced peppers, onions, tomatoes, olives and extra mozzarella chese 4.35 (The other fillings are also available.)

CHILI RELLENO
It's done the "Taco Villa Way". A little different but very good. We stuff a couple of tender mild green chiles with monterey jack cheese, wrap them with a flour tortilla and deep fry till golden brown. Topped with ranchero sauce and melted cheddar cheese. Served with rice 3.95

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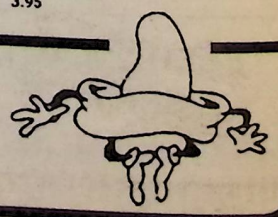
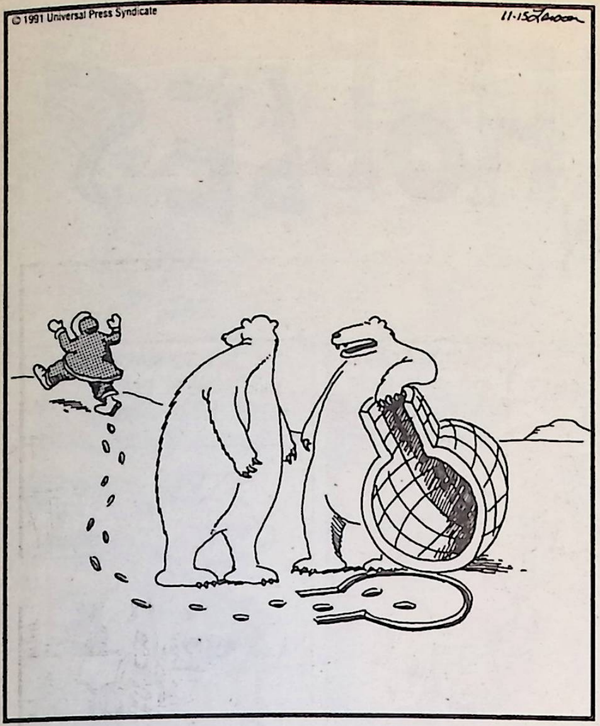
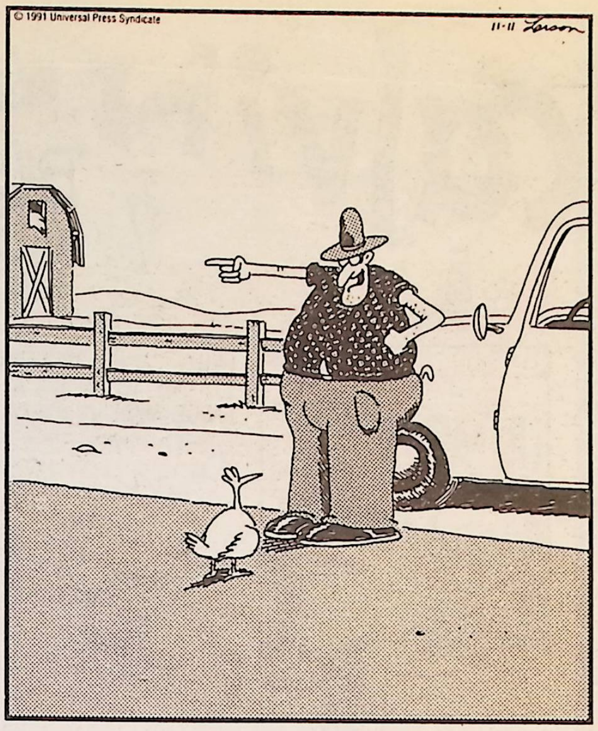
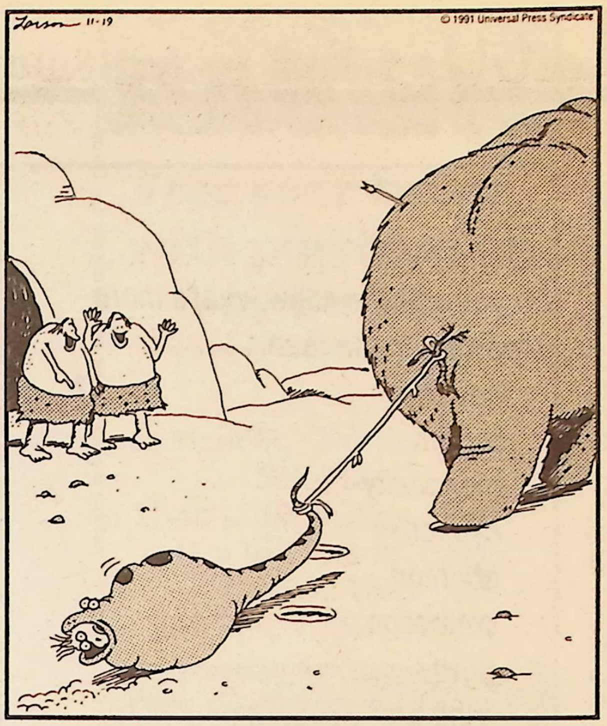




"I lift, you grab . . . was that concept just a little too complex, Carl?"

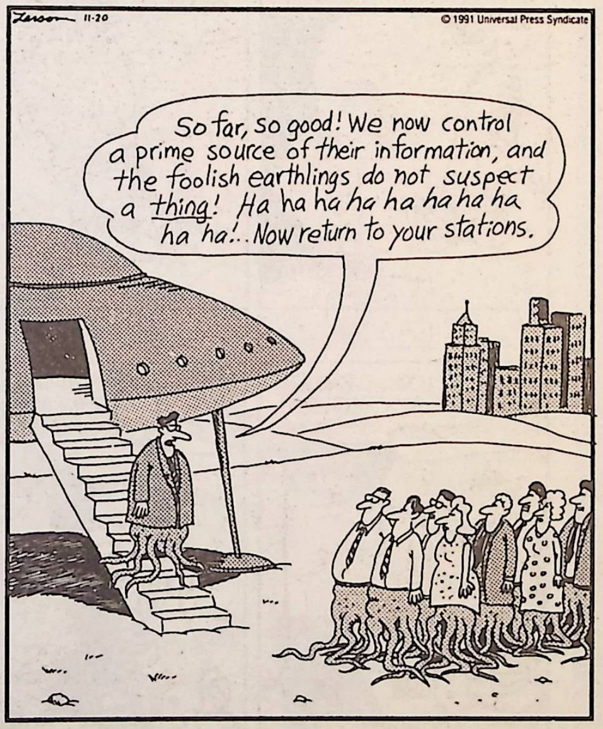


"Sure. The place you're lookin' for is straight over them hills — course, that's as the crow flies, not as the chicken walks. Ha ha ha ha."

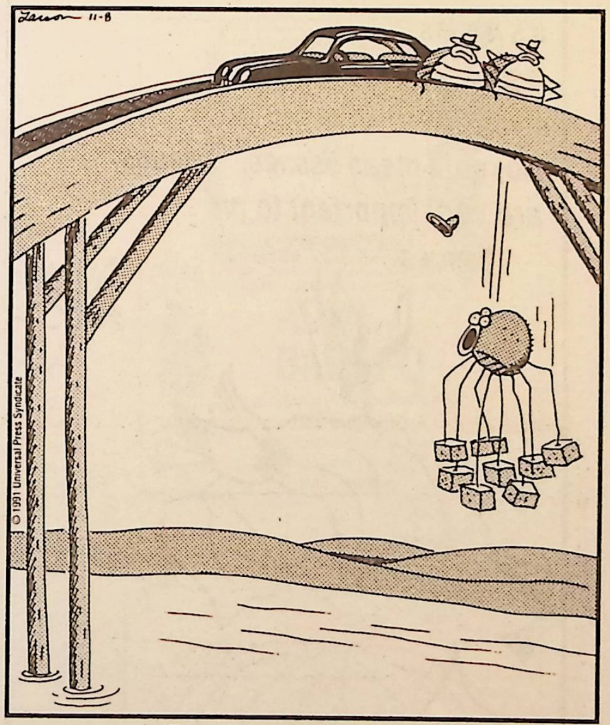


Practical jokes of the Paleolithic

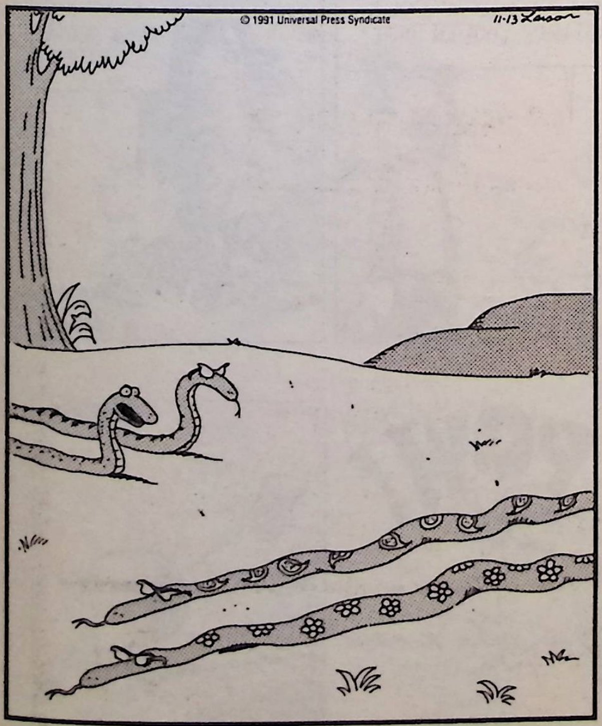
"I'm sorry, Mr. Caldwell, but the big guy's on his way out. If you want my opinion, take him home, find a quiet spot out in the yard, and squash him."



Why we see news anchorpersons only from the waist up.



The spider Mafia at work



"Oh my God! . . . '60s skins are back!"

Same planet, different worlds

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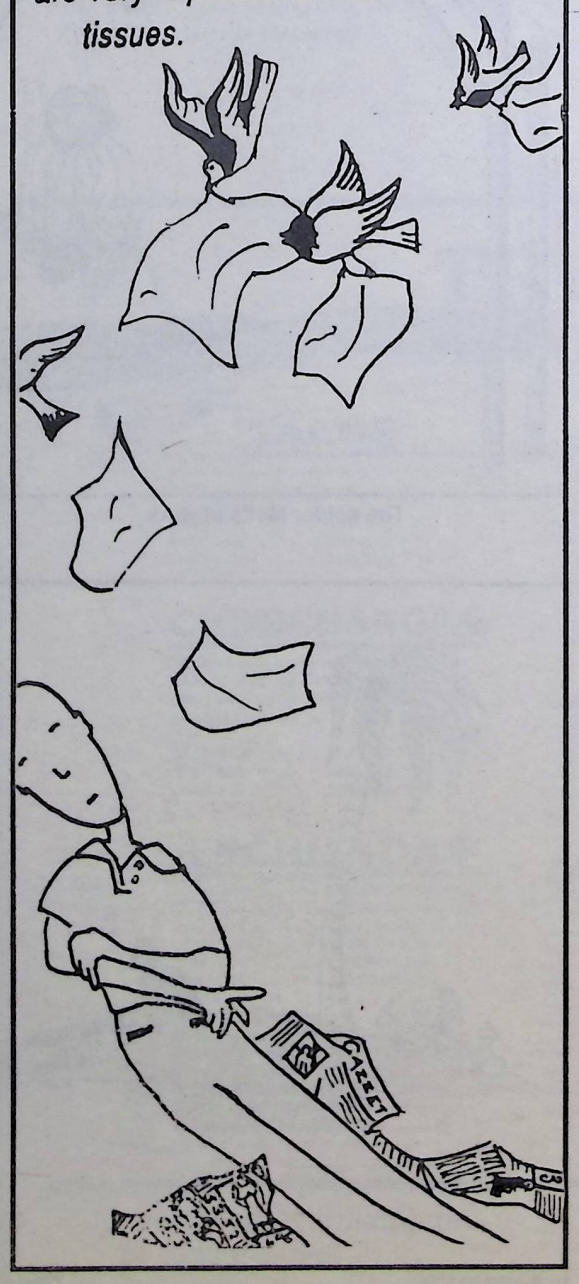
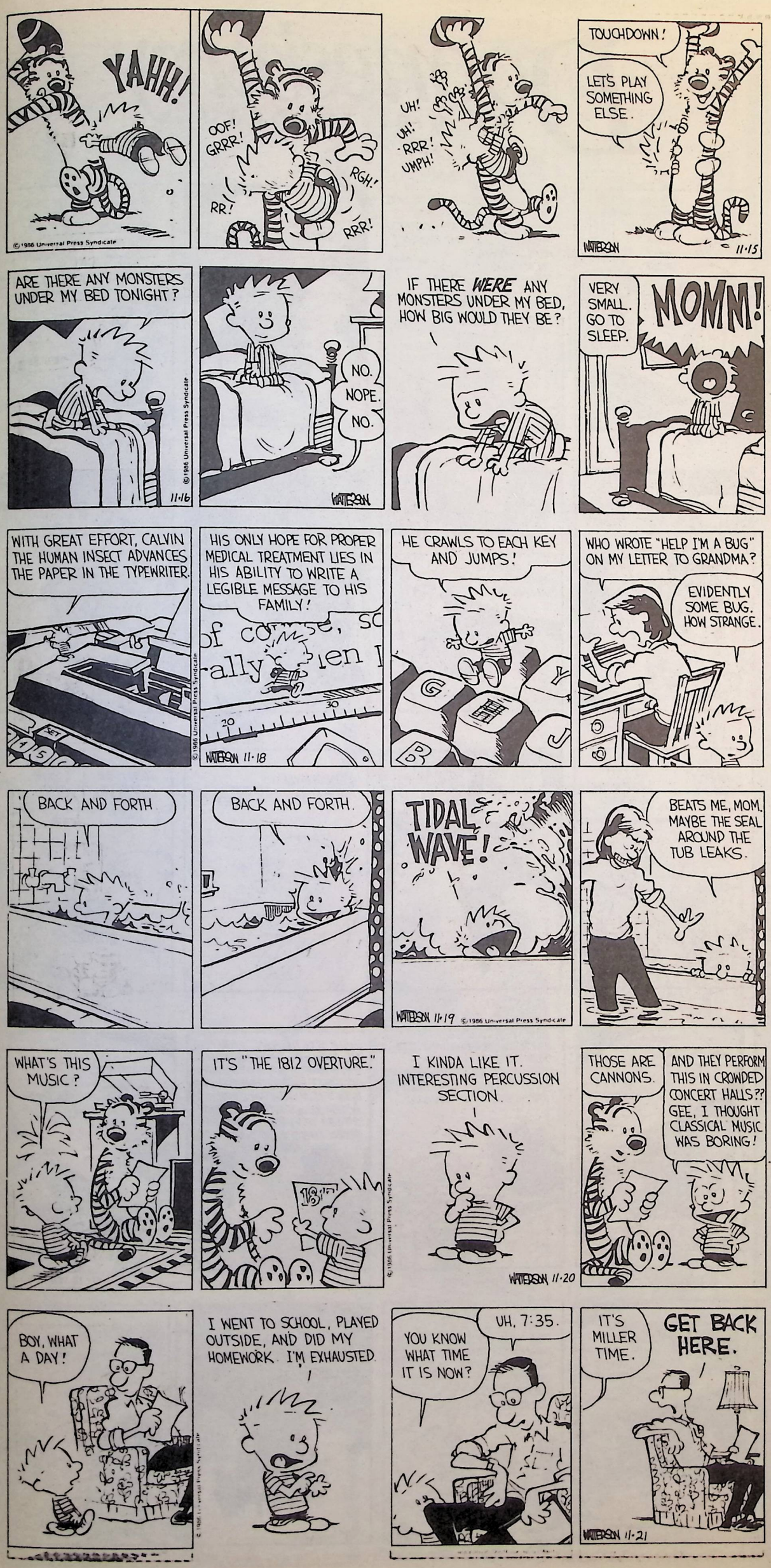
Do you want to know what's more important to me than
poverty
racism
mendacity
hypocrisy
abortion
corruption
purity
truth and
beauty?
I'll tell you.
It's issues
issues . . .

No, no, I mean tissues. Tissues are very important to me . . .
tissues.



Calvin and Hobbes by Bill Watterson



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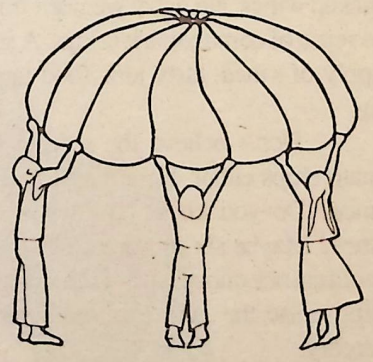

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humor me

by Izzy Gesell

Although I don't ski, snowmobile or go ice-fishing, winter is my favorite season. When daylight savings time ends I come out of the kitchen cabinet and go right into the refrigerator.

The joy of junk food is what I am after. Officially, junk food season begins on Halloween, the only holiday where candy is consumed as a main course. It continues right on through the winter, culminating with the feast of Easter Sunday.

Dove Bars, Hagen Das bars, dessert bars, all-you-can eat bars. The variety and quality of junk food is awesome. What is also awesome is the extant of deception people engage in to disguise the true amount of junk food consumed and the enjoyment it brings into our culture.

As evidence, you need look no further than the side panel of a pint of ice cream. Notice the weight of the item listed, then the number of servings in the container, usually four. It is here that societal deceit rears its head.

Everyone knows that there are at most two servings in any pint of ice cream. The first consists of approximately 5/6ths of the contents consumed directly out of the container. Often, the container is not even put down, doubling as a bib. The second serving, a yolk-shaped lump serves as a superego by allowing us to put "something" away for later. Regardless of what, if anything, is put away there is only ONE serving in a pint of ice cream.

Potato chips are another food cloaked in oily deception. In order to be accepted as valid in today's ersatzly health-conscious food industry, various disclaimers are splattered all over the bag. Chief among these is the smug "contains no cholesterol." Big deal. If we wanted cholesterol we know where to get it. A big order of barbequed spare ribs or some nicely-browned chicken wings. No, what we want from potato chips is the sense of cornucopia it brings. A seemingly endless supply of salted, tasty junk food tumbling out of the bag.

Don't believe the serving-size on a bag of potato chips either. Here it says that a serving is one ounce? Do you know how many chips are in one ounce? Maybe six or seven. The only time a person would eat one ounce is if he is chewing gum because the chips cause the gum to disintegrate like sweetened mercury.

If potato chips were truly meant to be consumed one ounce at a time they wouldn't be packaged in bags that become unusable as soon as they are opened. Even if you want to save some for later, there is no easy way to do it. Remember, with chips as with ice cream, one serving equals whatever container you got it in.

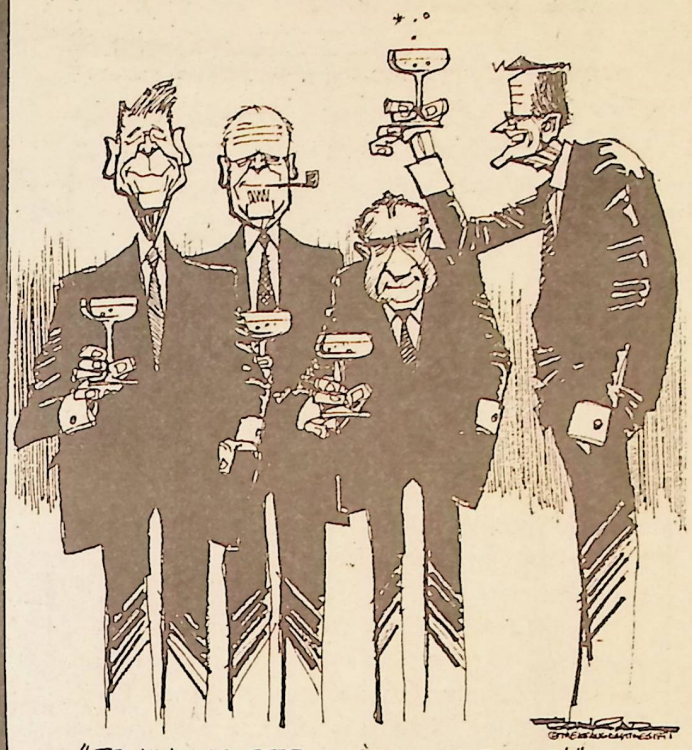
As a plus, eating from the bag, box or carton saves dishes as well as preparation time. This is especially important when you get home from the store just as an interesting TV show is beginning.

I gotta get something to eat now, so until next time, when I'll discuss why pizza really is the BEST junk food, keep well and keep snackin.

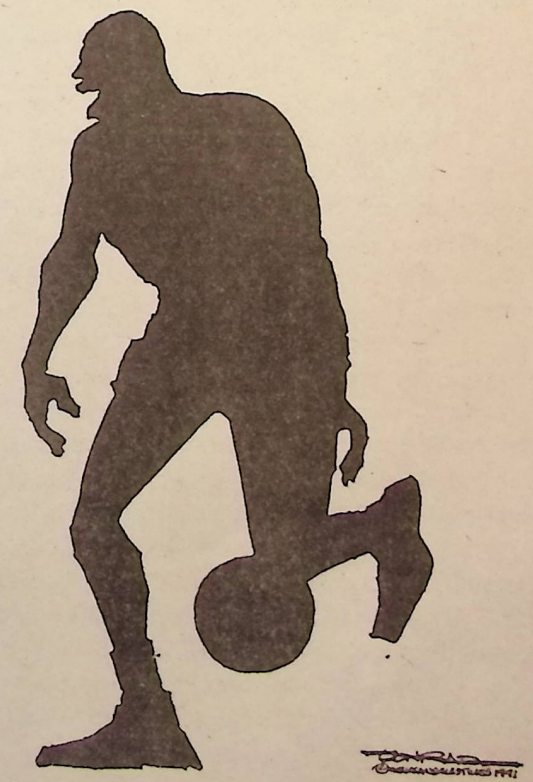
Doonesbury

BY G.B. TRUDEAU

OTHER STUFF



"TO JIMMY CARTER... IT'S ALL HIS FAULT!"



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